

# PASP Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

## 3/15/2021

### **CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the PASP Advisory Council was held via teleconference on 3/15/2021 from Noon - 2PM. The meeting was called to order by Lydia Fecteau, Chairperson.

### **ATTENDEES**

Attendees included: Lydia Fecteau (Chairperson), Colleen Roche (Vice chair), Tom Spadaro, Julia Levy, Barbara Appel, Nancy Ingling, Millie Gonzalez, George Murray (CAU), Connie Morris (Ocean), Debbie Hehir (Middlesex), Dianne DiLaurentis (Gloucester), Anna Alpine (Bergen and Hudson), Liliana Zorrilla (Bergen and Hudson), Cristine Chickadel (Atlantic), Dave Grennon (Cumberland), Rob Fornoff (Essex), Helen Alvarez (Union), Lisa Lombardo (Sussex), Ava Loveland (Warren), Amy Cameron (Somerset), Cheryl Weisberg (Monmouth), Rebecca Ferguson (Salem), Carol Stoltz (Morris), Ken Baylock (Camden), Donald Campbell (Guest), Janice Sangle (Guest), Debi Thompson (Guest), Dianna Maurone (DDS), Susannah Combs (DDS), Jacqueline Moskowitz (DDS), Cynthia Mapp (Passaic Coordinator/DDS), Luz Hernandez (DDS).

### **MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Members not in attendance included: Chrystal Allen, John Waters, John Fig, Rebecca Benoit

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the 5/20/2020 meeting were not presented or voted on. The Chair will email the minutes to the members after the meeting.

### **CHAIRPERSON REPORT**

The Chairperson, Lydia Fecteau announced that she will be stepping down as Chair and as a member of the Council, citing health reasons and other commitments, effective immediately. Colleen Roche, Vice Chairperson will assume the role and responsibility until a new Chair can be named. At this time, applications for all Executive Council members will be accepted: Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Ms. Roche noted for the record that the Council thanks the outgoing Chair, for her years of dedication and commitment to PASP and the Council. Ms. Fecteau has served on the PASP Council since 2002 and has contributed to the many PASP accomplishments over the years.

### **CAU Update**

1. 464 consumers in NJ PASP. There were 8 disenrollments from December 1, 2020 through February 28, 2020. There were 4 new consumers who started PASP services from December 1, 2020 through February 28, 2020. This is a decrease of three consumers in the PASP population statewide from 468 to 464 over this

period. Year over year, the program has decreased by 30 consumers, from 494 at the end of February, 2020 to 464 the end of February, 2021.

2. There are currently 47 consumers who have a monthly PASP cost share. In February, 2021, the total PASP monthly cost-share charged statewide was \$15,636.68. Total Cost Share Collected was \$ 9710.29

The cost share funds in the cost share account will be refunded to the state upon request. Or, again at the state's request, may also be used to provide extra funding to counties whose yearly contract funding may prove too small over the course of the year.

Year to date in 2020-through February- the total cost share invoiced is: \$29,093.65. The total cost share collected is: \$24,757.16.

3. In 2021, as of February 28, a total of 661.43 hours of sick leave time has been accrued. In that same period, 825.12 hours of sick leave have been paid out. This includes some of the 17410 hours that were carried over from 2020. The total dollar amount of sick leave paid so far in 2021 \$10,706.75.
4. There has been no change to the forms in the PASP initial package since 1/1/2021. All may continue to use the packages that were sent out by SDS at the end of 2020. We continue to monitor the forms regularly and will let everyone know if there are any more changes.
5. As we all know, the minimum wage in NJ will increase to \$13 per hour as of 1/1/22. SDS will contact the county coordinators in September to get the process of updating the affected CMPs started. As for the minimum wage increase to \$12 per hour as of 1/1/2021, there are still 3 workers across 2 consumers in 2 counties whose pay rate still must be raised to conform with the new, NJ minimum wage as of 1/1/2021. We await the CMPs.
6. As the Coronavirus outbreak turns one-year-old, SDS works to keep the impact on fiscal services to PASP at a minimum. Although staff continues to work in part remotely, we meet regularly as a group to ensure that all are on the same page with regard to payroll and non-payroll processing and payment. All the contact information for our staff is the same and all staff will continue to respond queries and requests promptly.

## **DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORT**

1. DDS has a new look and logo, designed with colors representative of adult and child disability awareness and shapes representing the interconnectedness yet individuality of those we serve.



2. DDS has delivered over 40,000 meals during COVID and continues to provide approximately 2,500 meals/month to people with disabilities under the age of 60 during public health crisis.
3. \$1.4 million in funding to Inclusive Healthy Communities grants (18 grants awarded throughout the state). See DDS website for more details.
4. 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ADA video released by DDS.
5. March is Brain Injury Awareness month: DDS has created video's highlighting a few success stories of participants of our TBI Fund, shared through listserv.
6. DDS to participate in the Virtual Abilities Expo.

### **PASP ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

1. PPP Dissemination in May/June: All PASP Participants were eligible to receive at least one box of 100 masks and 1 box of 100 pairs of gloves. Some Participants refused and some asked for additional supplies, which were provided when available. All Counties disseminated PPE via distribution events in parking lots; Coordinators delivered to homes; or Coordinators arranged individual pick up times
2. DDS continues to work from home
3. Weekly Coordinator calls, turned to monthly Zoom meetings in the fall
4. Program activity policy was and remains suspended for current PASP Participants
  - a. Inability to meet obligation must be due to COVID-related reasons
  - b. New applicants must meet program activity requirements
5. Issued RFP for 4 counties (being administered in-house)
  - a. 2 contracts for 3 counties were awarded
    - i. Moceans for Monmouth
    - ii. RIL for Burlington and Cape May
    - iii. No viable proposals submitted for Passaic
6. Passaic County Government issued an RFP for a subcontractor to administer PASP
  - a. Home Care Options selected bidder
  - b. Contract being finalized now
7. Telephonic assessments resumed in September
  - a. Administration decided not to go back and assess Participants that were missed
8. New temporary voluntary suspension policy
  - a. Temporary policy in effect during public health emergency declaration
  - b. Participant may continue in voluntary suspension status until declaration is lifted
  - c. Must request extension every 30 days
9. Developed and delivered comprehensive Coordinator Training Series (2x's)
  - a. New Coordinators through RFP and Coordinator turnover in other Counties

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

The Chair introduced and welcomed the three (3) newest members of the Council: Chrystal Allen, Julia Levy and Rebecca Benoit.

The Chair also announced that there are several vacancies in both the Central and Southern Region. Council representation is as follows:

- i. Northern Region: 6 members
- ii. Central Region: 2 members
- iii. Southern Region 3 members

The process for extending Council member appointments was discussed and agreed upon. This process starts with the Council having a discussion with the member in question as to whether or not s/he wishes to extend their membership. If the member agrees to an extension, a recommendation is forwarded, by email, to the Program Administrator, who will send the recommendation and letter to the Commissioner for her approval.

DDS will provide the Zoom link for all virtual Council meetings moving forward. Agendas and Zoom link will be posted on the DDS website at least 2 weeks prior to each Council meeting for public announcement and access.

## **NEW IDEAS**

Tom Spadaro questioned whether the Council could/should be doing any advocacy regarding raising the reimbursement rate. Colleen Roche asked what other self-directed programs were using as their reimbursement rate. JACC's reimbursement rate was reported to be \$18/hour for agencies and \$12/hour for direct workers. PPP's reimbursement rate was reported to be \$15/hour.

Janice Sangle inquired as to whether proposed legislation (S2400/A3042) would impact PASP funding. The PASP Administrator has requested an update from the DHS' legislative unit.

DDS is also aware of proposed legislation (S3455/A5262) that would increase the PASP age limit. Currently the upper age limit is 70, with the possibility of a 1-year extension. The PASP Council and Participants have long been advocating for an increase to this limit, as people are working later in life.

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Colleen Roche and seconded by Lydia Fecteau at 2pm. The next PASP Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 17, 2021 at 1pm.

Susannah Combs

Secretary

3/29/2021

Date of approval